- No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/29 : LOC-HAK-185-1-48-3

UPI143
(WARPOWERS)
WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE SENATE WEDNESDAY GAVE FINAL APPROVAL TO A BILL LIMITING PRESIDENTIAL WAR MAKING POWERS. THE VOTE WAS 75 TO 18, FAR MORE THAN THE TWO-THIRDS NEEDED TO OVERRIDE A VETO THREAT FROM PRESIDENT NIXON.

APPROVAL CAME ON A ROLL-CALL VOTE ABOUT HALF AN HOUR AFTER NEWS OF VICE PRESIDENT SPIRO AGNEW'S RESIGNATION BEGAN CIRCULATING IN THE SENATE CHAMBER. A SCHEDULED THREE-HOUR DEBATE WAS CUT SHORT BY ABOUT AN HOUR.

THE MEASURE PROHIBITS THE PRESIDENT FROM COMMITTING TROOPS TO BATTLE FOR MORE THAN 90 DAYS WITHOUT SPECIFIC CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION, AND GIVES CONGRESS THE POWER TO END HOSTILITIES EARLIER THAN THAT BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE NOT SUBJECT TO VETO.

BUT THE BILL, PRODUCT OF A CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO RESOLVE EARLIER DIFFERENCES IN MEASURES PASSED BY BOTH BODIES, PICKED UP SIGNIFICANT OPPOSITION FROM SEN. THOMAS EAGLETON, D-MO., AND OTHER LIBERALS.

EAGLETON CHARGED DURING A BITTER DEBATE WITH SEN. JACOB JAVITS, R-N.Y., FLOOR MANAGER OF THE MEASURE, THAT THE CONFERENCE REPORT CONSIDERABLY WEAKENED THE EARLIER SENATE MEASURE AND, IN EFFECT, "AN OPEN-ENDED BLANK CHECK FOR 90 DAYS OF WARMAKING ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD ON PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY ALONE."

EAGLETON COMPLAINED SPECIFICALLY THAT A SECTION OF THE BILL STATING THE PRESIDENT WAS AUTHORIZED TO COMMIT TROOPS ONLY IN CASE OF A DIRECT ATTACK ON THE UNITED STATES OR AN ATTACK ON U.S. TROOPS OVERSEAS WAS CONSIGNED TO THE PREAMBLE OF THE MEASURE, MAKING IT LEGALLY MEANINGLESS.

JAVITS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE CONFERENCE HAD WEAKENED THAT SECTION OF THE BILL BUT MAINTAINED THAT OTHER PROVISIONS HAD LEFT IT "A REAL, ACTIVE, SUBSTANTIVE AND EFFECTIVE RESTRAINT ON THE PRESIDENT. WE MUST SEEK THE CONSENT OF CONGRESS TO MAKE WAR."

UPI 10-10 05:34 PED

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